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UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Plague rumored in Jiddah and Mecca.

[Cablegram.]

PARIS, FRANCE, *June 9, 1897.*

SIR : Plague rumored in Jiddah and Mecca.

GEDDINGS,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Yellow fever on the steamship Colon, en route from Panama.

ANGEL ISLAND, CAL., *May 29, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to confirm my telegram of the 26th instant, concerning yellow fever on the steamer *Colon*, from Panama, via La Libertad, Acajatha, San Jose de Guat, Champerico, Ocos and Acapulco, and report now the facts more in detail.

Upon the bill of health from Panama our consul noted "several cases of yellow fever, but no statistics as to actual number." Three of the passengers sickened with fever and died shortly after leaving Panama. The ship's doctor gave the following account:

Case 1.—Gustave Benderel, 75 years old, native of Switzerland; embarked at Panama; was taken sick two days out with fever, chill, and albumin in the urine; died in five days; diagnosis, pernicious fever complicated with Bright's disease.

Case 2.—Fiedez Piege, 13 years old, native of Chile; embarked at Panama; sickened about the second day out with fever, vomiting, and albumin in the urine; died in six days; diagnosis, pernicious malarial fever.

Case 3.—J. T. Bennett, 35 years old; born in the United States. This man was refused passage at Panama upon the advice of the ship's sur-

geon, but he managed to stow away during the night. He suffered with fever and vomiting, diarrhea, chills, jaundice; died in nine days; diagnosis, enterocolitis, and intermittent fever. These patients were quarantined on board; their bedding was thrown overboard, and the usual precautions taken to prevent the spread of infection on the ship. There were several other cases of pernicious fever on the doctor's journal, which recovered. The vessel arrived here with 23 cabin, 40 steerage passengers, and 83 in the crew, all well. She was sent in quarantine with all on board for disinfection; the passengers were transferred to the Island and their effects disinfected in the usual way. The vessel was ordered alongside of the *Omaha*, from which she was disinfected throughout with sulphur fumigation and bichloride solution. This being the first time the *Omaha* was used for this purpose, it is a pleasure to be able to report that everything worked smoothly, expeditiously, and quite satisfactorily both to ourselves and to the captain and crew of the *Colon*. About 50 mattresses with a number of pillows were burned. The vessel and passengers were released at the completion of disinfection, ten days having elapsed since the last suspicious case had occurred on board.

Very respectfully,

M. J. ROSENAU,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Alabama.

MOBILE, ALA., May 31, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to report that George Scales, male, colored, age 30, was sent into this city from a railroad camp, about fifteen miles from here, to the city hospital, but was not admitted, as the interne suspected smallpox. The man was sent to the city health officer, who sent him at once to the pesthouse. The man had been in the camp for three weeks, and suffered with fever for about ten days.

The excitement at Greenville, Evergreen, Fort Deposit and other points on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, has, in a measure, subsided, but it appears that there is one case at Fort Deposit, and one at Evergreen. Brewton, Escambia County, Ala., is under suspicion, but no facts are at hand.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox on the British ship Matterhorn.

ANGEL ISLAND, CAL., June 1, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the British ship *Matterhorn*, one hundred and ten days from Hongkong, has been held for disinfection on account of smallpox. One of the crew was taken sick with that disease eight days out of Hongkong. He recovered after an illness lasting about three weeks. No other cases occurred on board. There being no sickness upon arrival here, the vessel and all on board were given a general disinfection and then released. All were vaccinated excepting the convalescent from smallpox.

Very respectfully,

M. J. ROSENAU,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.